



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU  
and UNECA  
Press Section**



## **Cabinet of Ministers Discussed Work Plan for 2016**

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The Eritrean Cabinet of Ministers conducted a two-day meeting at State House in the capital, Asmara, on the 19th and 20th of November 2015. The meeting assessed the grain harvest situation in 2015 and the report presented by the Ministry of Local Government regarding development programs of the six Administrative regions for 2016.

The meeting noted that in view of the inadequacy of rains this year, the harvest output would be lower than that of 2014. It reached understanding on the measures that need to be taken regarding grain supply and basic consumer items, as well as animal feed thereof.

The Ministerial Cabinet conducted deliberations on ensuring food security, construction of agricultural infrastructure, enrichment of water resources, soil and water conservation,

promoting forestry and related resources, effective land administration on the part of the Administrative regions.

In connection with the redemption of the Nakfa currency notes in circulation, the Ministerial Cabinet pointed out that the step was taken with a view to strengthening the national currency, and thereby the national economy.

Moreover, the meeting discussed the action plan of the ministries and different public agencies for 2016. This involves the strengthening of activities to ensure food security, promote animal husbandry and harness fishery resources.

In the domain of infrastructure development, it held deliberation on the construction of new roads and renovation of the existing ones, development of

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### ...Cabinet of Ministers Discussed Work Plan for 2016

ports, expanding water reservoirs and irrigational capacity, housing projects and service-rendering facilities, among others.

As regards the energy and mining sectors, the Cabinet of Ministers reviewed action plans pertaining to the expansion of national electrification program, enhancing the capacity of energy generating plants, in addition to investment plans relating to the development of mining capacity, coupled with developing technological capability in mining processing, along with expanding alternative energy sources such as solar and wind resources.

The Ministerial Cabinet went on to discuss the policies and work guidelines in connection with the effective administration of land, water and environmental resources.

Concerning the tourism sector, it underlined the need to enhance the capacity of the workforce through organizing training programs with a view to adequately harness the nation's rich tourism potentials.

On transport and communication sector, the meeting reviewed programs drawn up vis-à-vis the reinforcement of land transport facilities, renovation of sea ports and air ports, including terminals and related facilities.

Furthermore, the Cabinet of Ministers conducted discussion on activities relating to trade and industry. It reviewed activities dealing with domestic and foreign trade, import and export ventures. It also assessed the progress registered in the manufacturing sector.

The meeting discussed the need of assessing the development projects funded by partners and their impact on the strategic national development programs aimed at improving the livelihood of the population.

With regard to the health sector, the Cabinet of Ministers discussed the progress registered in the training and recruiting process to upgrade the professional

capacity of the health workers, activities that have been made to deliver the basic medicines and equipment, the investment made to build small and big health facilities, the efforts made to control diseases



as well as the action plan for the year 2016.

As regards the education sector, the Ministerial Cabinet reviewed the expansion of education services, improvement of education capacity as well as popular participation and the progress registered thereof, in addition to availability of educational materials. It also discussed the institutional capacity, information management system, vocational training, follow-up in students' health, educational services for the disabled, development of education in the mother tongue, illiteracy eradication, as well as establishment of printing press, supervision activities and other education-related issues.

Moreover, the Ministerial Cabinet discussed the action plan of the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare as regards activities undertaken to ensure social wellbeing and nurturing the spirit of self-reliance. It also discussed the action plan for the year 2016 that includes social support programs and the establishment of information system.

In the domain of justice, it conducted discussion on the activities being conducted to deliver effective and timely justice, the agitation programs to acquaint the society with the new national laws, action plan for the year 2015 including institutional capacity and the provision of services, professional ethics of courts, establishment of an inspection unit and training center, as well as human resources development.



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Concerning the media activities, the Ministerial Cabinet discussed the procedures being undertaken to improve the work of the media revising the organizational structure of the Ministry of Information, and the technology development, training programs and research activities.

In the concluding phase of its meeting, the Ministerial Cabinet heard briefings by President Isaias Afwerki with regard to the priority budget allocation for the year 2016. The President said that

in 2016 priority budgetary allocation will be given to human resources disbursement.

In accordance with the ongoing research being conducted the new salary system will also be put into practice. In connection with that, the President called for the speedy completion of study being conducted to identify the professional and physical capacity within the country and put in place the structuring and restructuring programs.

In the concluding phase of its two days meeting, the

## Eritrea Participated at Valletta Summit on Migration



A senior Eritrean Government composed of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Saleh Osman, and Mr. Yemane Ghebreab, Head of PFDJ Political Affairs, participated at the Valletta Summit on Migration that was held from 11-12 November this week.

In his address to the Summit, Minister Osman stated that the “issue of migration has featured prominently on the joint agenda of Africa and Europe”. The Valletta Summit was quite different from previous gatherings “as there is now a palpable sense of urgency and determination both in Africa and Europe, a greater understanding on the pressing need for a genuine partnership to address the vital,

complex and multi-faceted challenges of migration”, the Foreign Minister underlined.

Mr. Osman described in greater detail the external push factors that had fueled, in recent years the inordinate and illegal youth migration from Eritrea. This has harmed Eritrea as well as the destination countries, the Foreign Minister emphasized.

Eritrea has made slow but steady progress in health and education and achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals. The prospects for a new phase of sustained economic growth as a result of substantial investments made in the past years on human capital, agriculture and infrastructure, among others, Minister Osman explained.

The Valletta Summit ended with a plan of action and EU pledges of 2.2 billion dollars of development assistance.

Full text of his statement can be accessed at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/20755-statement-of-he-osman-saleh>



## Eritrea’s Transition from the MDGs to the SDGs

As part of the commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, the UN in Eritrea hosted an event on Eritrea’s transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015.

The event was held under the theme, “Transition from MDGs to SDGs: What does it mean for Eritrea?” provided a platform for discussion on what the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs means for Eritrea.

Government officials, UN staff, development partners and representatives of research and academic institutions gathered at the Eritrean Worker’s Union and engaged in a lively discussion covering issues such as the sustainability of Eritrea’s success in the health-related MDGs and approaches to replicate this success in achievement of other areas of the SDGs.

During the occasion, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Eritrea, Mrs. Christine N. Umutoni expressed the opportunity of the event to look Eritrea’s achievements over the past 15 years of the MDGs and see how we can build upon these successes while looking at how to go forward with the implementation of the SDGs in Eritrea. She further added the UN commitment in strengthening its partnership with the Government of Eritrea towards achieving the SDG.

The event was allured with panel discussion moderated by Dr.Luka Okumu of the United Nations in Eritrea, with a keynote address from Prof. Abraham Kidane of the Ministry of National Development and a presentation on Eritrea’s perspective of the SDGs by Dr. Ghiorgis Tekle of the College of Business and Economics in Eritrea. This was supplemented with a presentation on the student perspective of the SDGs by Ms. Deborah Tedros, also from the



College of Business and Economics in Halhale.

The Government of Eritrea and the UN are currently in the penultimate year of

it’s the four-year Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF 2013-2016) and have already commenced preparations for the development of a new five-year partnership of cooperation (2017-2021) which will incorporate Eritrea’s national development plans and the SDGs.

### AU delegation visited Eritrea

A delegation of the African Union Commission conducted is on a four-day visit from Dec. 1-4/2015 to Eritrea for extensive discussions with relevant government bodies on the “Domestication of Agenda 2063 and the First Ten Year Implementation Plan”.

The AU delegation held meetings with the Minister of National Development, the Minister of Transport and Communications, as well as with senior officials from the Ministries of Finance, Information and the Auditor General’s Office.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the AU delegation jointly organized a workshop on the same theme in Asmara yesterday for a wider audience from several government bodies and civil society associations.

The AU delegation also visited several private enterprises in Asmara.

As it will be recalled, President Isaias Afwerki had articulated Eritrea’s views on AU Agenda 2063 in the publication of AU Heads of State and Government issued on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Union in 2013.

Article contributed by President Isaias Afwerki can be accessed at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/20846-au-delegation-visits-eritrea>



## Mitigating Climate Change: Eritrea's Concrete Action as Part of the Global Effort

On 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, a conference on Climate Change was held in Asmara. This conference was organized with the collaboration Eritrea's Ministry of Land, Water and Environment and the Delegation of European Union in Eritrea and attended by Ministers, Government officials, Members of the EU in Eritrea, diplomats and invited guests. During the event, various papers were presented and deliberation were also made in addressing the means of tackling climate change.

On the occasion, Minister of Land, Water and Environment, Mr. Tesfai Ghebreslasie underscored Eritrea's full commitment in tackling dire consequence of climate change. He further elucidated the concrete steps Eritrea has implemented in addressing this concern. In this regard, the Minister mentioned the reforestation program, the drafting of national environmental protection policies and the limitation of any environmental hazard with utmost efforts. Moreover, he informed Eritrea's submission of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) document to the Secretariat of UNFCCC as part of its international effort to mitigate global warming and climate change. A full text of Minister Tesfai's remark can be accessed at

<http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/20794-remarks-by-tesfai-ghebreselassie-minister-of-land-water-a-environment>

During the event, The Head of Delegation of the European Union in Eritrea, Ambassador of Christian Manahl pointed out Eritrea's strong conviction to the usage of renewable energy and his organization readiness to be key partner this regard. In this line, he indicated Eritrea's National Indicative Program, that is the framework for Eritrea-EU cooperation for the upcoming year, has received a favorable opinion from EU Member states, and more than 80% of the funds from his program amounting for €175 million will be allocated to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Following this, Ambassador of France to Eritrea, Mr. Stephane Gruenberg, gave a briefing on the preparation of the Paris Summit on Climate Change (COP 21).

Beside this, Papers were presented by Eritrean experts from the Ministries of Agriculture, National Development, as well as the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment highlighted Eritrea's policies and strategies on climate change as well as efforts being exerted in the country as part of the overall national development programs. In addition to this, a paper on the Development of Cooperation Programs and their relation on Climate change was also presented by the EU delegation.

## Eritrean community festival in Qatar



The 7th Eritrean community festival in Qatar commences on 19th November under the theme "Our Unity-Guarantee for Our Existence". The opening ceremony was attended by Brig. Gen. Abraha Kasa, head of the National Security Agency, General Administrator of the

Qatari Security, Gen. Jasim Al-Kalifa, Eritrean Ambassador in Qatar, Mr. Ali Ibrahim, as well as other invited guests.

The annual festival will be highlighted with exhibitions depicting the tradition, natural resources and history of the Eritrean people as well as cultural shows and seminars on the current situation in the homeland.

The cultural troupe from Eritrea comprising renowned singers added color to the festival.